



# Role of ECDC in implementing EU Action Plan on HIV/AIDS

10<sup>th</sup> Think Tank meeting, Brussels, 9-10 April 2008

Zsuzsanna Jakab, Director, ECDC

# Role of ECDC in the Founding Regulation



Identify, assess & communicate current & emerging health threats to human health from communicable diseases

- Detection of health threats through surveillance and epidemic intelligence;
- Provide evidence-based scientific opinions/advise;
- Strengthen preparedness and response
- Capacity building through training;
- Health communication.

ECDC role: risk assessment and evidence based scientific advise to support sound decision making

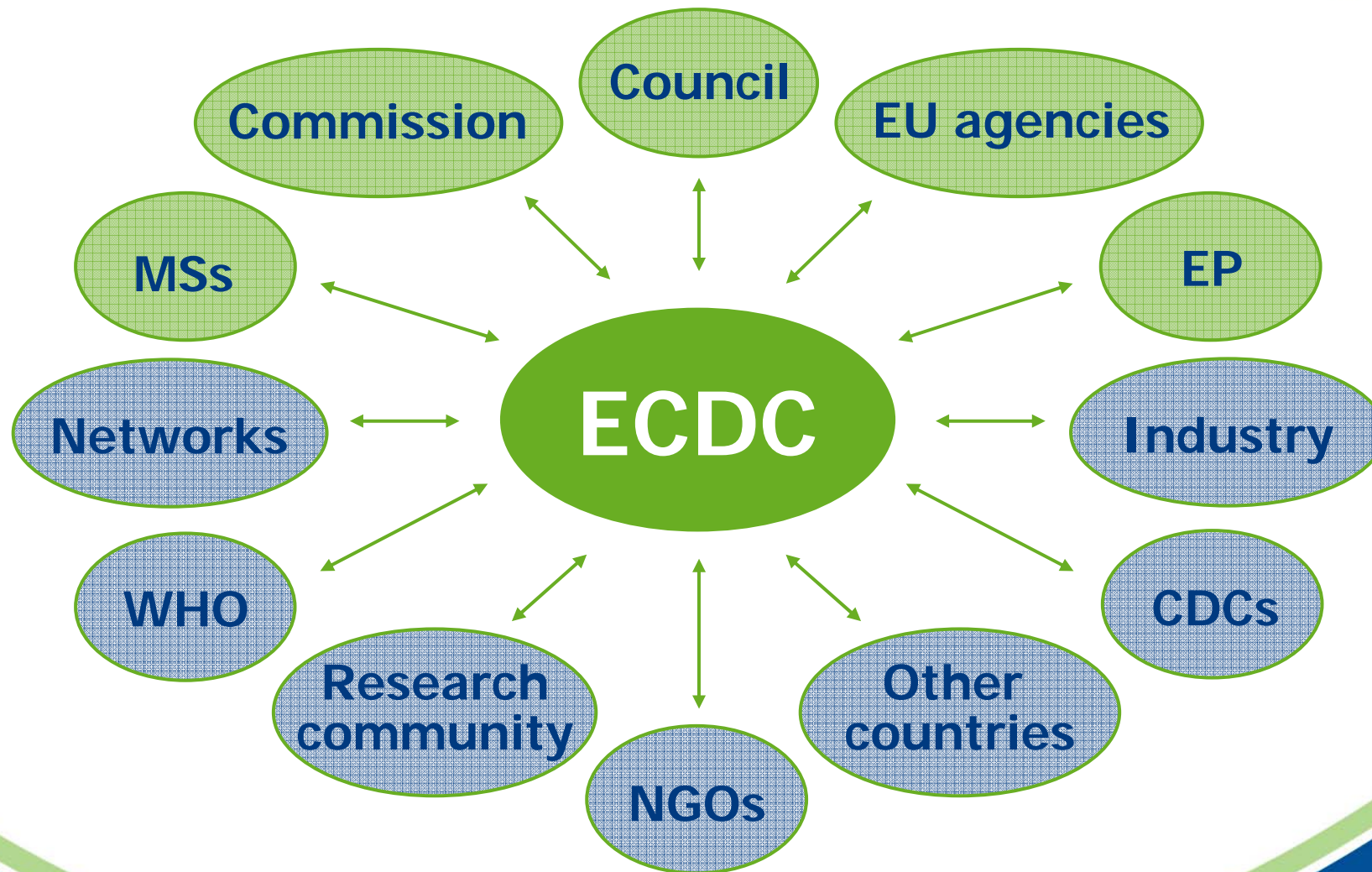
# ECDC Strategic Multi-annual Programme 2007–2013



- Approved by ECDC's Management Board in June 2007;
- Analyses the challenges that infectious diseases will pose to Europe in 2007–2013;
- Specifies ECDC's role in helping the European Union and its MS to compile evidence and to promote the right decisions for the prevention and control those diseases;
- Lists 7 targets that ECDC committed to reach by 2013.

**ECDC long-term strategic vision**

# Who are ECDC's strategic partners?



# How is ECDC organised?



**Director**  
Zsuzsanna Jakab

**Cabinet/Office of the Director**

- Strategic Management
- Governance
- External Relations, Partnership
- Country Relations

**Chief Scientist**  
Johan Giesecke

**Internal Auditor**  
Stefan Sundbom

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**Surveillance Unit**  
Andrea Ammon

Data Management and General Surveillance

Disease Specific Surveillance

**Scientific Advice Unit**  
Johan Giesecke

Microbiology Coordinator

Evidence Base for Prevention and Control

Scientific and Technical Advice Knowledge Services

Future Threats and Determinants

**Preparedness and Response Unit**  
Denis Coulombier

Epidemic Intelligence and Emergency Operations Centre

Outbreak, Preparedness and Support

Epidemiological Training

**Health Communication Unit**  
Karl Ekdahl

Scientific Communication

Public Communication and Media

Web Services

**Administrative Services Unit**  
Jef Maes

Legal and Procurement

Human Resources

Finance and Accounting

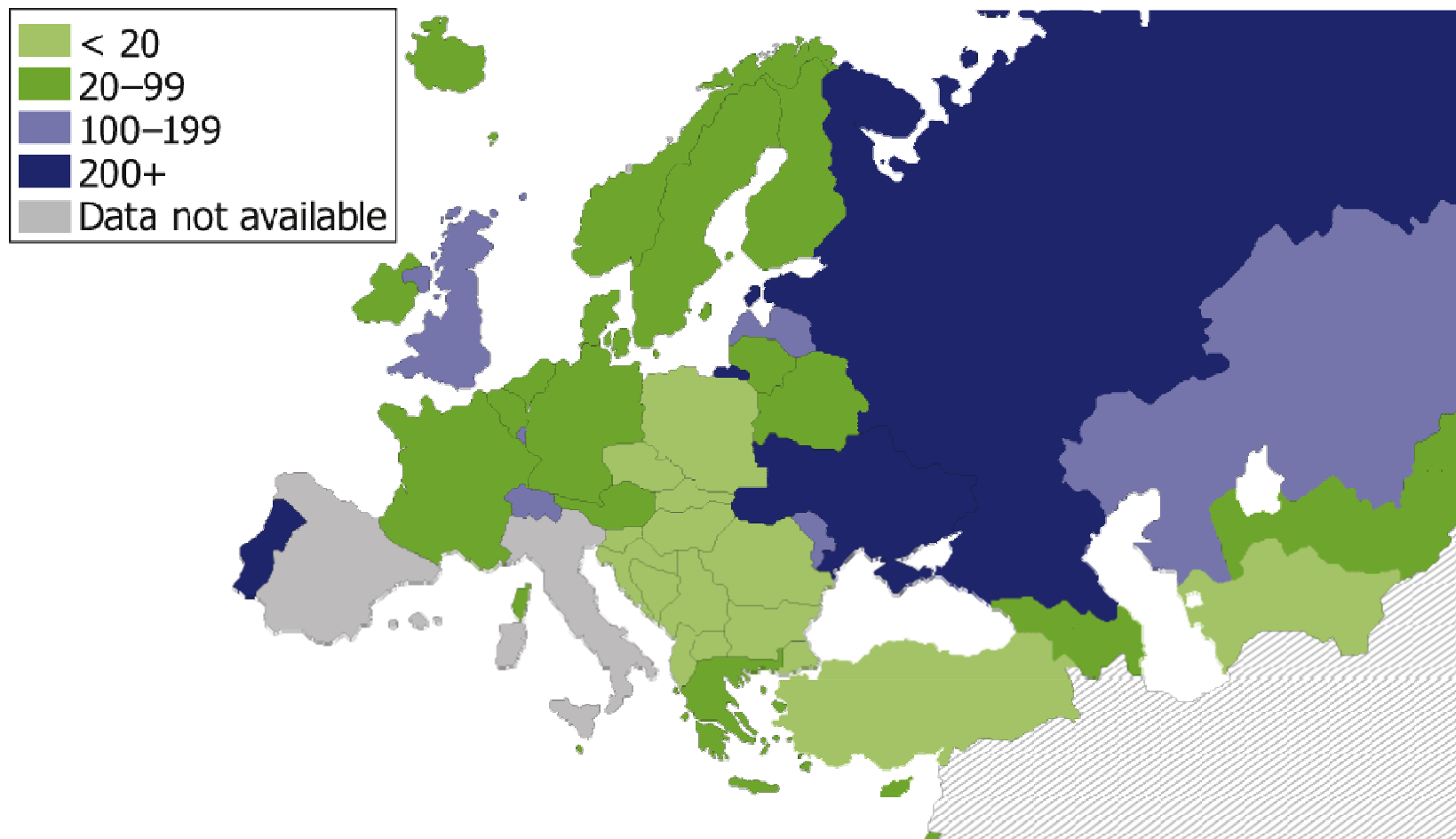
ICT

Missions, Meetings and Logistics

Respiratory Tract Infections (Influenza – Tuberculosis)  
STI including HIV and Blood-Borne Viruses  
Vaccine Preventable Diseases  
Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections  
Food and Water-Borne Diseases and Zoonoses  
Emerging and Vector-Borne Diseases

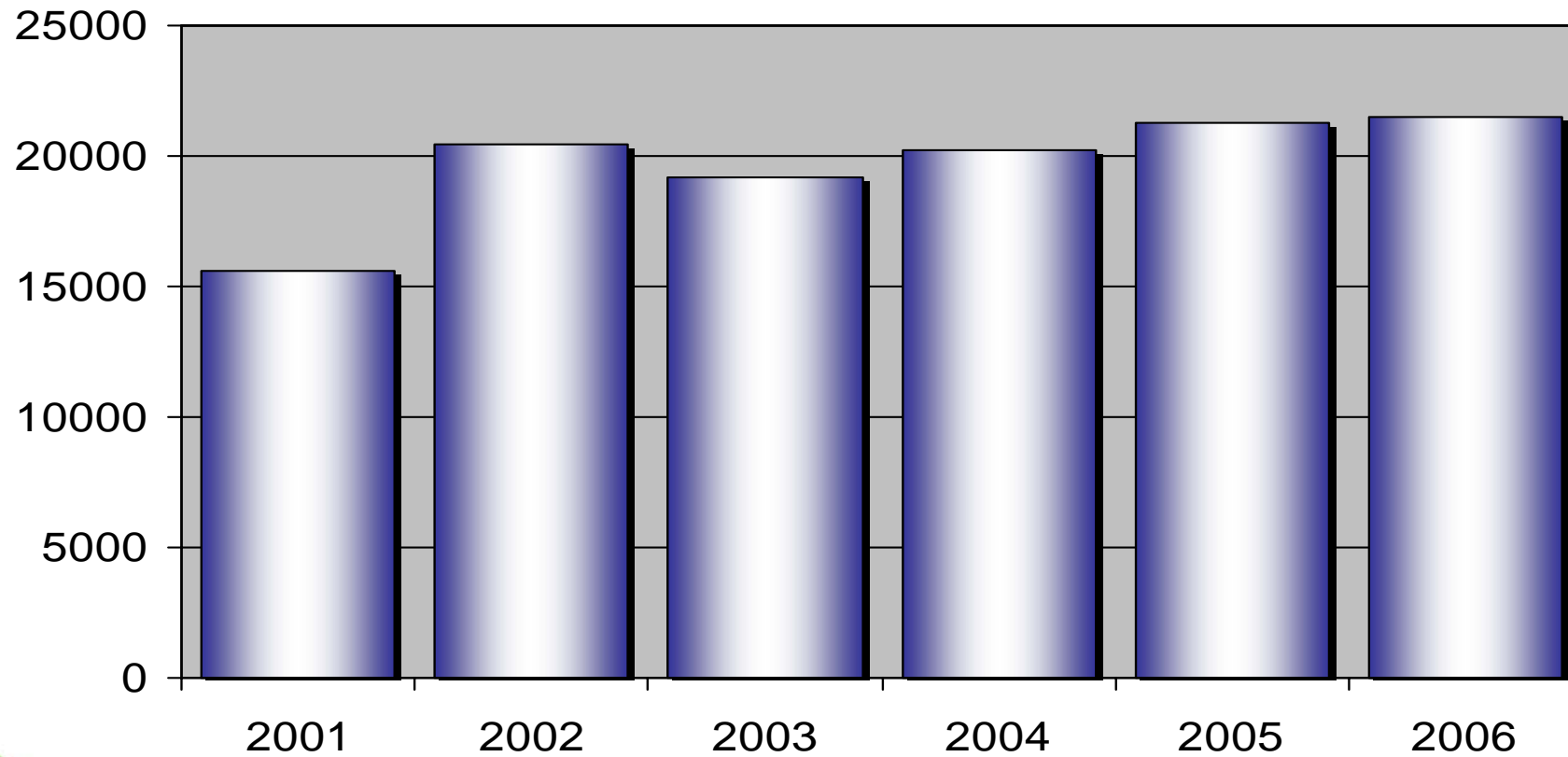
# HIV/AIDS, STI, Viral hepatitis

*Rate of newly diagnosed cases of HIV reported in 2006*



# New HIV diagnoses 2001-2006

*EU & EEA/EFTA countries*





## ECDC and key partners in HIV/AIDS

- **Commission** - important on-going close relationship;
- **Think Tank's** leadership role is fully supported – to participate and support its work; contribute to monitor the EU action plan;
- **NGOs** - to establish a closer dialogue with Civil Society Forum;
- **Member States** - to keep continuous interactions on all levels;
- **WHO** - to collaborate within MoU – joint surveillance of HIV and TB in European region;
- **EMCDDA** - to collaborate re MoU and share data collection on HIV and hepatitis to avoid double reporting.

ECDC added value: to bring epidemiological data to policy-makers: Bremen/Berlin and in epid report



# ECDC's on-going activities in HIV (1)

## Surveillance

- Coordination of EU-wide surveillance of HIV/AIDS
- Develop and implement surveillance for STI, hepatitis B and C

## Modelling

- Develop new user-friendly models for national HIV estimates

## Communication

- Updated information to stakeholders, professionals and large public

**Strategy 1.1- Enhance knowledge of health, economic and social impact in EU**

## ECDC's on-going activities in HIV (2)



### **Surveillance**

- Develop standardised behavioural surveillance

### **Research priorities**

- Identify research priorities

### **Review HIV in migrants**

- Assess the epidemiological situation
- Access to health care and testing

**Strategy 1.2 - To improve the scientific understanding of HIV determinants**

## ECDC's on-going activities in HIV (3)

### Monitoring & evaluation

- Develop M&E programme to monitor Dublin Declaration
- Evaluate key interventions
  - Identify barriers to HIV testing;
  - Identify public health benefit of partner notification for STI and HIV – Call to be launched shortly.

### Guidance

- Guidance for the introduction of HPV vaccines in EU (Jan 08)
- Issue guidance for chlamydia control in Member States (June 08)

**Strategy 1.3 – To improve evidence based methods and technologies for prevention and control**

## ECDC's on-going activities in HIV (4)



### Monitoring & evaluation

- Country visits (2008: Portugal, Bulgaria, Poland + 2 follow-up visits to Estonia and Romania)

### EU level collaboration

- Commission, Think Tank
- World AIDS Day
- Meet stakeholders
- Etc.

**Strategy 1.4 - To strengthen programmes for CD prevention and control at the EU level**

# HIV surveillance in Europe

*Transition to ECDC and WHO - Europe*

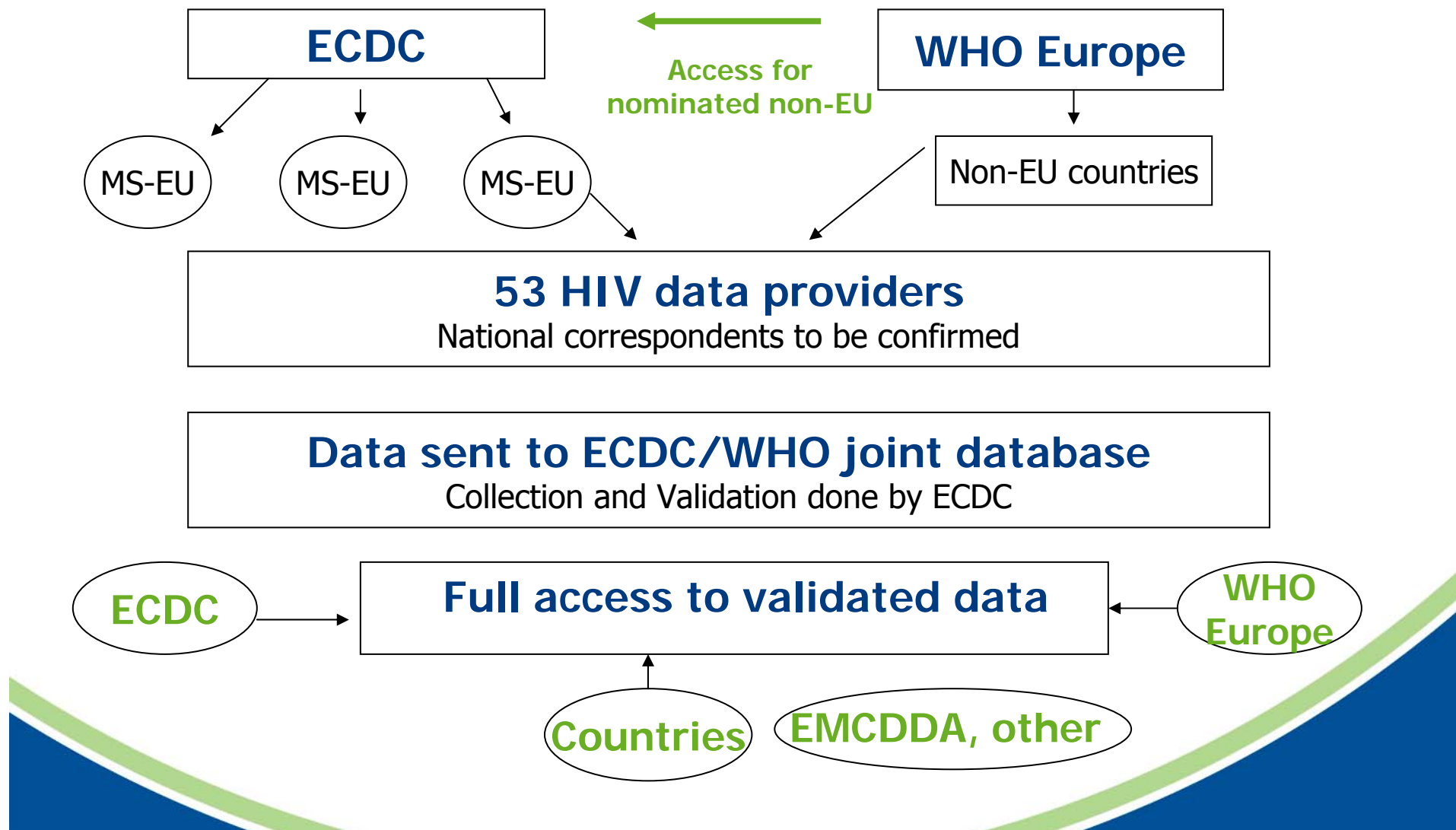


- **Joint surveillance** by ECDC and WHO-Europe as from 2008
- **Transition plan covers:**
  - Transfer of the databases for HIV and AIDS (case-based reporting, aggregate reporting)
  - HIV prevalence database
  - Coordination group and annual meeting
- Recommendations from **Annual meeting 2007:**
  - To improve HIV/AIDS surveillance re quality, completeness and standardisation,
  - To promote case-reporting,
  - To add CD4 counts



# HIV surveillance in Europe

*Framework*



# HIV surveillance in Europe

*Transition to ECDC and WHO - Europe*



## Preparation for data collection:

- Transfer from old format to new TESSy format
- Protocol for data collection & TESSy converter tool available
- Training for HIV data providers organised in March 2008
- TESSy is up and running – testing site available
- Data collection for 2007 starts soon



# HIV surveillance a good model



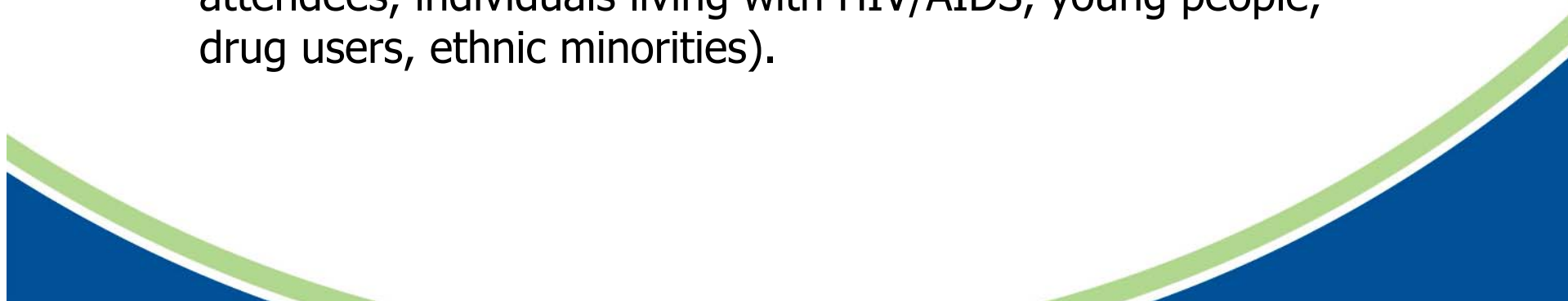
- HIV/AIDS surveillance is a good model of one notification system with Member States;
- Good model for our collaboration with WHO;
  - 53 countries together
  - One database
  - One network
  - Joint annual report.
- We are exploring similar approaches to other diseases under EU-wide surveillance.



# Behavioural surveillance in Europe



- Behavioural surveillance related to HIV and STI as part of second generation surveillance;
- ECDC's study is starting in April 08:
  - To map behavioural surveillance programmes and specific surveys;
  - To develop a set of behavioural key indicators and methods for behavioural surveillance;
  - Carried out by University of Lausanne.
- Focus on the general population and specific groups at high-risk (homo- and bisexual men, sex workers, STI clinic attendees, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, young people, drug users, ethnic minorities).



# Behavioural surveillance in Europe



- Overall goal: to facilitate the implementation of standardised behavioural surveillance in EU Member States
- Expected results: toolkit with set of key indicators per group (winter 08/09)
- Workshop on behavioural indicators in MSM in Feb 08 – meeting report published shortly; discussions included:
  - Type of sexual technique
  - Safe sex practices
  - HIV testing
  - Time frame
  - HIV serostatus (discordant/concordant couples)

# Monitoring and Evaluation Programme

*To monitor the Dublin Declaration in EU*



- 4<sup>th</sup> Q 2007 Request from Commission to construct a framework to monitor the Dublin Declaration in the EU 27 + 3 EEA countries
- 1<sup>st</sup> Q 2008 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the monitoring framework developed
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2008 Collaboration with key partners in developing DD indicators
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2008 Tender awarded
- 4<sup>th</sup> Q 2009 First ECDC follow-up report published

# HIV testing in EU



## Background:

- About 30% of HIV-infected people in the EU are unaware of their infections;
- Missed opportunities to diagnose HIV in the health care setting;
- Knowledge on practices and barriers to HIV testing & counselling in the EU is lacking;
- Need for improved access, offer, uptake and effectiveness of HIV testing in the EU.

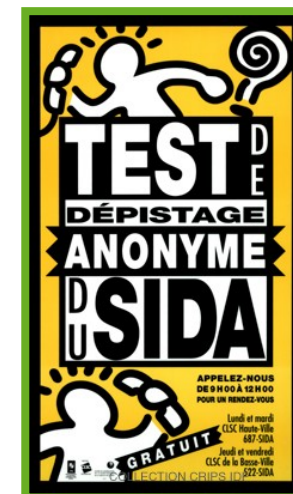


# HIV testing in EU



## From policy to effectiveness:

- ECDC study to map policies and practices and to identify barriers to HIV testing & counselling;
  - Commissioned to University of Ghent
- Expert meeting took place in Stockholm in January 2007 – report available soon;
- Main goal: to provide evidence-based advice for improving access, offer, uptake and effectiveness of HIV testing & counselling in the EU.



## Conclusions (1)

- HIV remains a major public health problem both in the EU and in neighbouring countries;
- The diversity of the epidemic across Europe requires adapted local response ;
- HIV is a global epidemic and the EU response needs to be seen in this context;
- Sustain and strengthen surveillance activities in Europe to inform prevention programmes & plan health care.



## Conclusions (2)



- Priorities for prevention in the EU:
  - Reducing barriers to HIV testing;
  - Developing innovative prevention approaches for MSM;
  - Providing specific services for migrant communities;
  - Strengthening prevention and care in high-burden countries
- Political commitment is key – support when and where we can
- Commission may wish to call upon ECDC to support the development of the new Action Plan for EU.
- My dream is to turn the epidemic around in Europe(EU )!





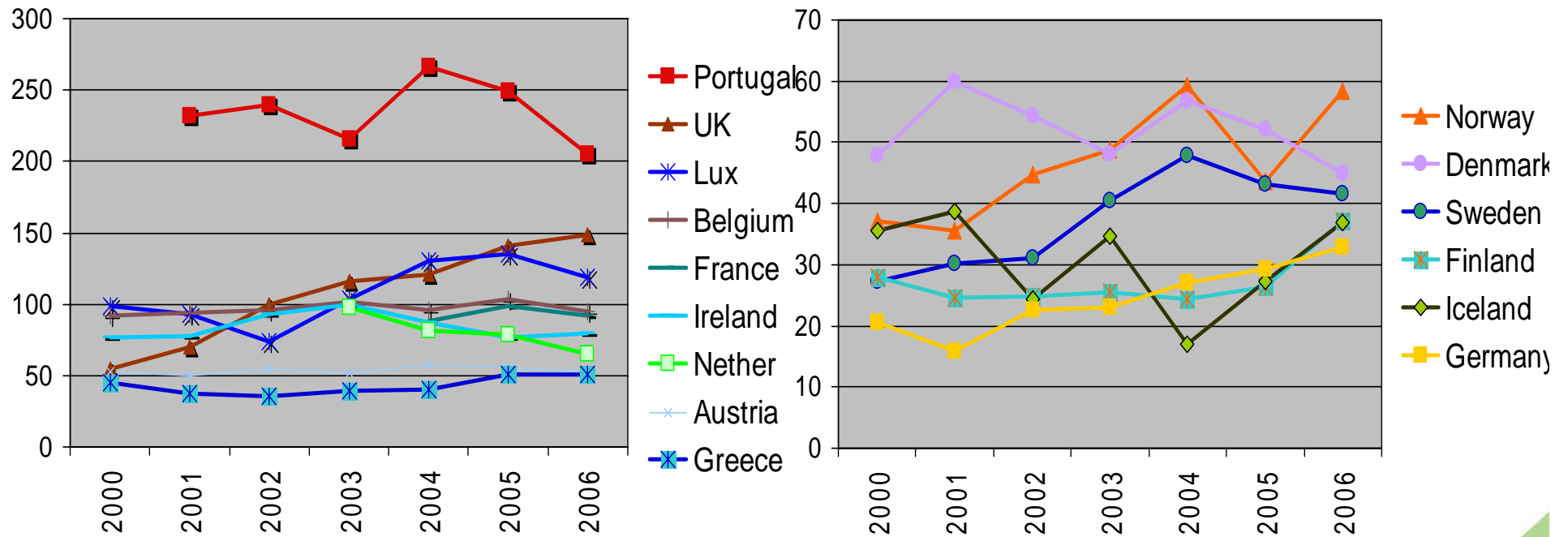
**Thank you !**  
Zsuzsanna Jakab  
Director ECDC

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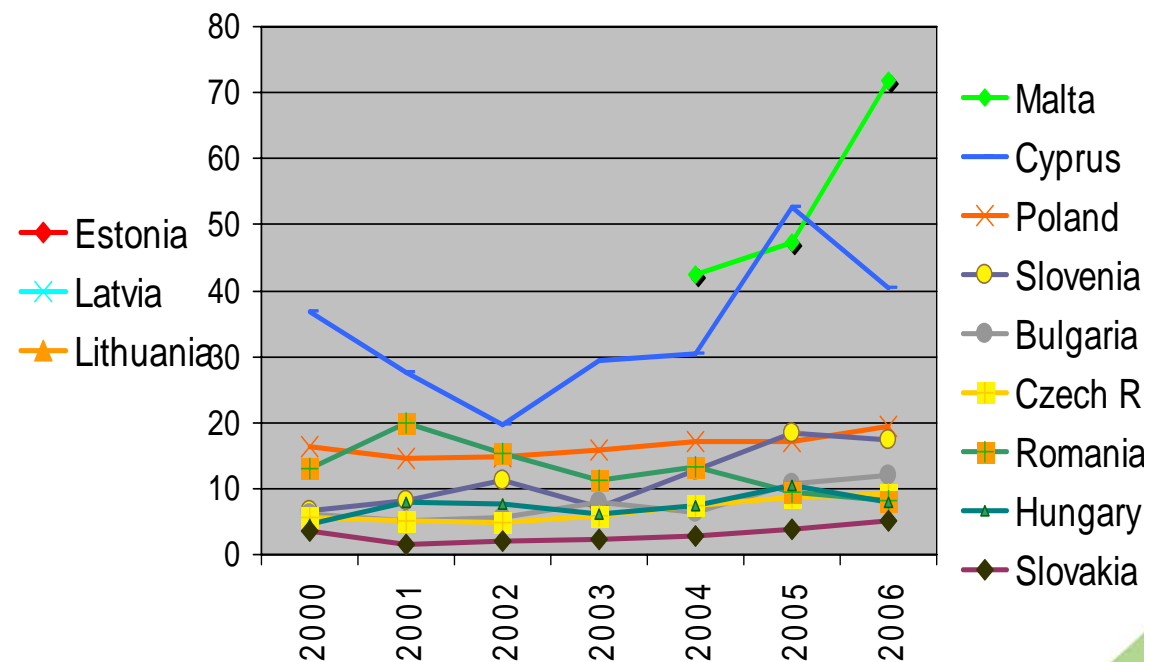
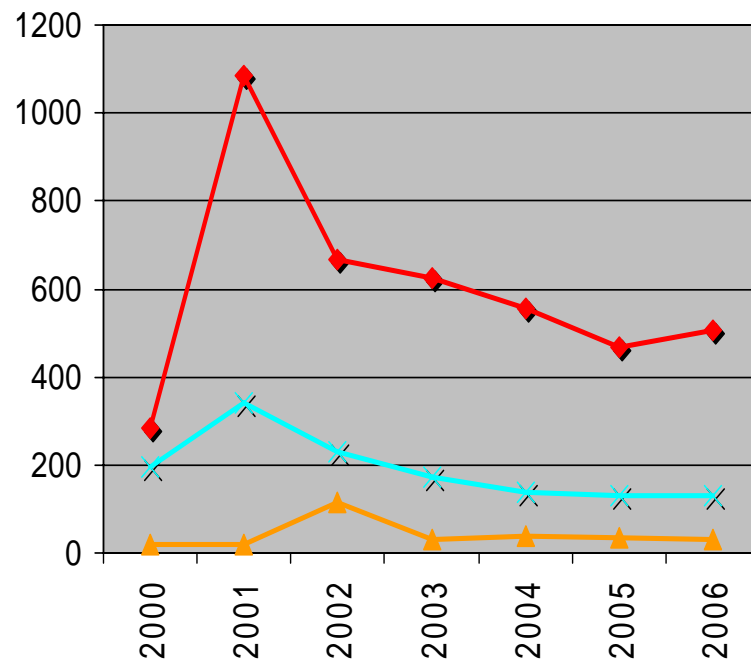


# New HIV diagnoses 2001-2006 per million pop, EU15 and EEA/EFTA countries



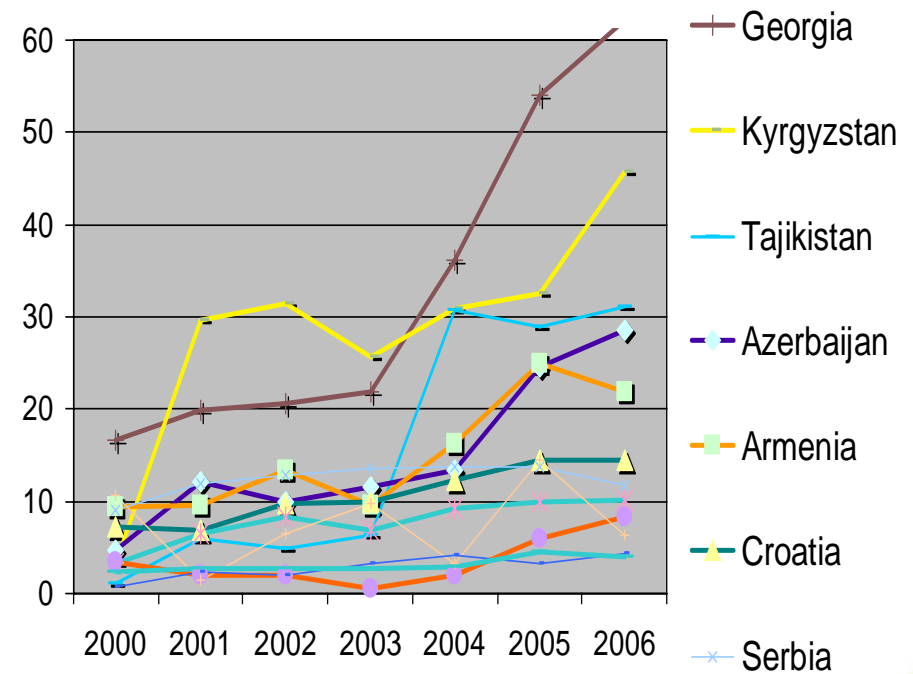
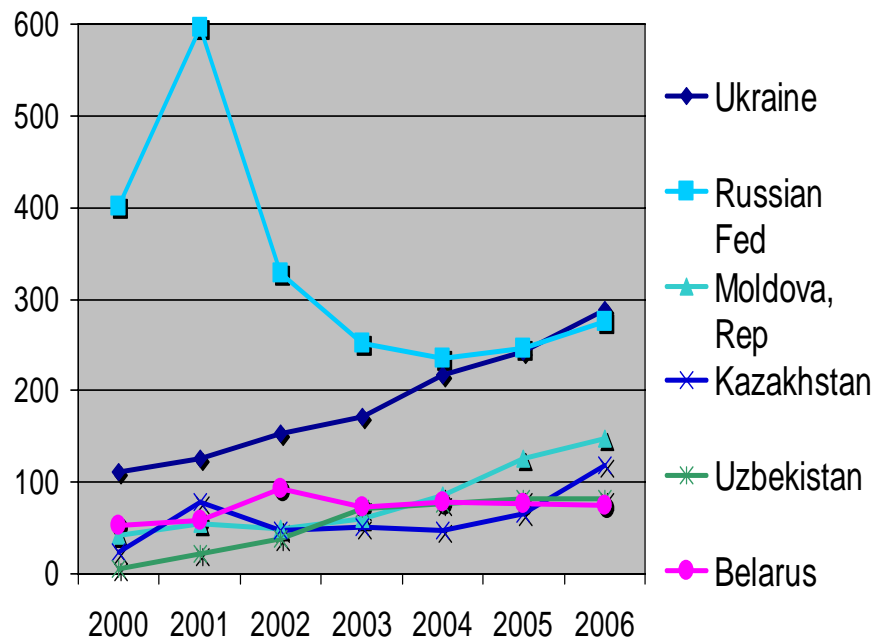
Note: the graphs are on a different scale!

# New HIV diagnoses 2001-2006 per million pop, Member States which have joined EU since 2004



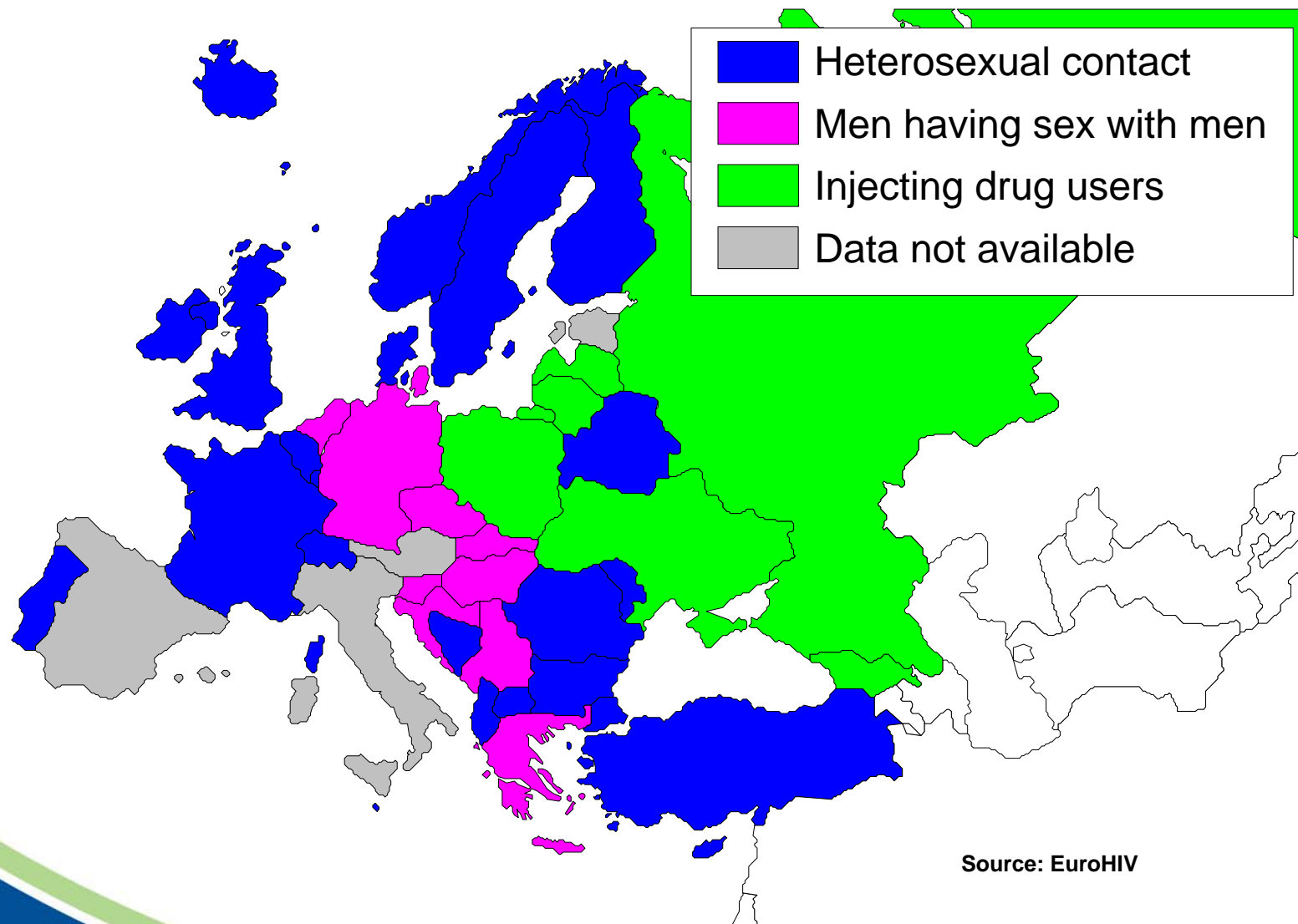
Note: the graphs are on a different scale!

# New HIV diagnoses 2001-2006 per million pop, EU neighbourhood



Note: the graphs are on a different scale!

# Predominant mode of HIV transmission, cases reported in 2006



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